

Rural District of Chester-le-Street.

TWENTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

CHESTER-LE-STREET:
W. CLARKE & SON LTD., FRONT STREET.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your district during the year 1914.

I have much pleasure in thanking your Council for your assistance I have received during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN TAYLOR.

17th April, 1915.



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INTRODUCTORY.

The area of your district remains unchanged.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is undulating and broken up into numerous valleys, the greater number of which converge to the principal valley, called the Team Valley, which runs roughly North and South. The Washington District on the other hand slopes towards the Wear, and forms there the Western side of the Wear Valley.

The elevation ranges from a few feet to about 600 feet above sea level.

The subsoil is alternately gravel, loam, and clay, overlying the coal measures.

The rainfall is moderate, probably 25 inches per annum.

OCCUPATION OF THE INHABITANTS.

Coal Mining is the staple industry in the district, besides which there are Agriculture, Engineering to a slight extent, and Brickmaking.

NEW ENACTMENTS DURING THE YEAR.

The Chief Orders of the "Board" received during the year were: (1) An Order dated 5th February making the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, if occurring within twenty-one days of birth, notifiable; (2) A circular, dated 25th June, calling attention to the possibility of introducing infectious diseases into country places by town children sent by philanthropic agencies to lodge there; (3) a circular calling attention of Sanitary Authorities to the precautions to be taken to prevent Epidemic Diarrhoea during the summer months; (4) In August, a Memo from the "Board's" Medical Officer calling attention to the steps requisite to be taken on the notification of a case of smallpox; (5) On the 21st October, a circular informing the Council of the directions issued by the Army Council to Home Commands, directing that Medical Officers of Health shall be informed by Commanding Officers of Units, of any proposed billeting in their districts, with a view of obtaining their expert advice and co-operation in billeting under the best sanitary conditions available for the incoming troops.

The War Office letter referred to is as follows, and is addressed The General Officer, Commanding-in-Chief.

“Sir,—With reference to War Office letters No. 79, Medical 17 (A.M.D.2) dated 8th August and 12th September, 1914, I am commanded by the Army Council to say that it is understood that billets are frequently arranged without reference to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which troops are to be quartered, and, as he is in the best position to give necessary information regarding the existence of infectious diseases, water supplies, drainage, localities where latrines should be placed, etc., the Army Council direct that you are to communicate with him before troops march in, with a view to obtaining his expert advice and co-operation in billeting the incoming troops under the best sanitary conditions available. . . .”

So far as this district is concerned, these instructions have been in all cases carried out, in the breach, so far as I can interpret their meaning. In the case of six billets, housing nearly 3,000 troops, no communication at all reached me, and my information that troops were in billets was seeing them there. In the case of two other billets, housing two squadrons of horse, a telephone message reached me that troops would march in on a certain day, the billets had however been chosen. One of the billets, a school, had a very defective supply of water, so much so, that the water closets could not be used, and objectionable trench latrines had to be resorted to. In the other billet, housing a squadron of horse, after the place had been chosen and work commenced to provide closet and other accommodation, I was informed, and asked to report on the place, at a date which appeared to me to be useless. I reported that the ventilation was bad and that water closets were advisable instead of pail closets. Your Council was willing to provide water-closets free, but the Divisional Sanitary Officer vetoed their erection as quite unsuitable for military purposes. This idea is particularly peculiar. In other billets where water-closets are, and where there is sufficient water supply, there has not been any difficulty experienced in their use and the sanitary difference no one will dispute. In Ravensworth Park were camped from the mobilization in August until the middle of November, three battalions of infantry, a brigade of R.F.A., and over 400 R.A.M.C. men, all territorials. This camp was arranged without any consultation with your sanitary officers.

The drainage system very soon became offensive and grossly insanitary. A quantity of manganate of soda was sent to the camp to deodorise to some extent their outfall open sewer. At an early period minor drainage, to collect washing water, was carried out by your Council, and ultimately a twelve inch sewer at a cost of about £130 0 0 was sanctioned by your Council, but before the work could be commenced the camp was broken up and the troops went into billets.

The ditch which was to be piped in was small, about 12 in. to 18 in. wide, and in the very dry weather of last summer was from one inch to three inches deep, according to the time of day. Besides a small quantity of subsoil water this ditch received all the waste water from the personal ablution of the men, and all the water from the washing of cooking and other utensils, besides from three to five tons of urine daily. As I have already said it was foul, very offensive, and a gross nuisance, yet the Divisional Sanitary Officer, T. F., informed me that he did not think it was necessary to be covered in, as he had inspected it, and did not feel any smell arising therefrom. Civilian sanitary officers do not, as a rule, trust to a nose alone in deciding whether a state of affairs is insanitary and dangerous or otherwise.

In one of the billets I found there were no tables for food, and that the men had to place their food tins on the floor. This is a state of affairs highly dangerous. This I pointed out to the officer in local command, but he did not appear to be able to remedy it, and so far as I know tables were not provided during the short time the men were billeted in the place in question.

At all the other billets tables were provided. Up to the end of the year there were no cases of infectious diseases amongst the troops. Some cases of Scabies appeared and a few were in a verminous state.

POPULATION.

The increase in the population of your district is not so marked this year as in former years. This statement is based on an estimate of your population made by multiplying the number of inhabited houses (so far as they are given me from the scavenging register) by the average population per house at the last census. By the means thus mentioned I estimate your population at the middle of the year at 67,194, an increase of 546. The actual number of births in excess of deaths is 1,258, as compared with 1,207 last year, and with 1,336 during the previous year. If the estimate by the means adopted is correct there must have been a considerable emigration taken place or else the increase by births has crowded into existing houses. The increase of your population by estimate equals 0.82 per cent. as compared with 1.01 per cent. last year.

The townships in which the greatest increases have taken place are Birtley (151), Witton Gilbert (122), Lamesley (113), Urpeth (66) and Pelton (61), whilst in Usworth, owing to the closing of houses there has been a decrease of 101.

Since the mobilisation of the army and the formation of the new armies, a very large number of men have joined the colours. The exact number I am unable to mention, but probably nearer 5,000 than 4,000. On the other hand some of these and others from outside your district have been encamped or billeted in your district and thus the population numerically is somewhat equalised.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages registered during the year has been 543 as compared with 555 last year and with 546 during the previous year. This gives a marriage rate of 16.1 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 16.6 per 1,000 last year.

The marriage rate for England and Wales for the year ended 30th September, 1914, is 15.5 per 1,000, the same as the rates for the past two years.

Marriage rate from 1896 to 1914 inclusive:—

YEAR.	NUMBER.	RATE PER 1,000.
1896	461	16.2
1897	469	16.4
1898	490	16.6
1899	444	15.2
1900	458	15.1
1901	492	16.1
1902	515	16.4
1903	470	14.5
1904	545	16.3
1905	487	14.1
1906	552	15.5
1907	556	15.2
1908	555	14.8
1909	483	15.3
1910	534	16.7
1911	480	15.2
1912	546	16.5
1913	555	16.6
1914	543	16.1

BIRTHS.

The number of births (corrected for the district) registered during the year has been 2,246, as compared with 2,164 registered last year, and with 2,221 registered during the previous year. It will be observed that there is an increase in births of 75, and since the increase of the population is insignificant there is an absolute increase in the birth rate.

The birth-rate per 1,000 this year is 33.42, as compared 32.54 per 1,000 last year and with 33.71 per 1,000 the previous year. Whilst there is an increase of 0.88 per 1,000, as compared with the rate of 1913, there is a decrease of 0.29 per 1,000, as compared with the productions of 1912.

The remarks I made in the decline of the birth-rate during several years could be made with equal emphasis this year.

First Quarter,	581	births	...	Rate,	34.58	per 1,000
Second	572	„	...	„	34.05	„
Third	599	„	...	„	35.65	„
Fourth	493	„	...	„	29.34	„

DEATHS.

During the year 882 deaths have been registered as occurring within your district, as compared with 880 last year, and with 822 during the previous year. This is practically the same number as during last year, but considerably more than during the previous year. To reach the actual number of deaths which must be debited to your district one has to add the deaths of 99 persons who, whilst belonging to your district, died in different institutions and other places outside your district, and to subtract 13 deaths of non-residents who died within your district. This gives a nett number of deaths of 968 persons belonging to your area, as compared with a nett number of 948 deaths last year.

The general death-rate (uncorrected for sex and age) is 14.40 per 1,000, as compared with 14.17 per 1,000 last year, and with 13.43 per 1,000 during the previous year. After correction has been made for sex and age, your actual death-rate is 14.90 per 1,000.

The general death-rate can be considered satisfactory and is considerably lower than the average rate of the quinquennium ending in 1910. If one could regulate infant deaths to an average year by year, your death-rate of this year would have been the lowest on record, for the past 28 years, but a somewhat large number of infant deaths has wrecked that record. The increase of deaths of infants has been caused by an increase of deaths from Diarrhœa, a fatal disease, preventable to a great extent, if proper sanitary surroundings to every house in your district were enforced.

The general death-rate of the Administrative County is 14.9 per 1,000, as compared with 15.1 per 1,000 last year, and the general death-rate for England and Wales, less the 242 great and smaller towns, is 12.2 per 1,000, as compared with 12.1 per 1,000 last year. The death-rate for England and Wales as a whole is 13.6 per 1,000.

The death-rate of your district compares favourably with the death-rate of the County, but not so favourably when compared with the death-rate of England and Wales, and one cannot rest urging such reforms as would tend to reduce your death-rate to a rate not exceeding the rate of England and Wales, though there is no reason why your general death-rate should not fall until it equals, if it be not less than, the death-rate for the smaller towns of England and Wales. The birth-rate is automatically declining, and every endeavour should be made to reduce the death-rate so that the shortage of production may be balanced to some extent by a lessened destruction of young life.

INFANT DEATHS.

This term is used to define the deaths which takes place before the infant has reached the end of its first year of life, and as a proportion, is stated at so many per 1,000 births, and not as so many per 1,000 persons living.

This year there have been registered the deaths of 318 children before they reached the age I have just stated. Last year the same deaths numbered 296, and the previous year the number was 268, both years being under the number quoted for this year.

The Infant death-rate for the year equals 141.2 per 1,000 born, as compared with 136.4 per 1,000 born last year, and with 120.6 per 1,000 born during the previous year. The Infant death-rate for the County is 134.0 per 1,000 born, as compared with 137.0 per 1,000 born last year, and the same rate for England and Wales 105.0 per 1,000 born, or for England and Wales less the 242 towns 93 per 1,000 born.

If I take for comparison with your district the 145 smaller towns as I have done previously whose death-rate in Infant life is 104, you will observe that 83 children have died in your district who would have survived had they been born in these towns. Provided diarrhœa was controlled as other Zymotic diseases are controlled, though by somewhat different initial means, the saving of life would be considerable. This year the number of Infants who have succumbed to diarrhœa is 75, whilst last year the number was 48, and only 16 during the year 1912. The last named year was not a hot dry year, but 1914 was a very dry year. The former had not the heat to produce in quantity the organism which causes diarrhœa, but the year 1914 had that factor, one of the two factors in the production of Zymotic Enterites, the other factor being an insanitary house entourage, either within or without the house, or worse still in both. The inside factor consists of slovenliness and a generally filthy state of the house, the outside one,

of the presence of an insanitary privy or ash-closet in the yard, with the presence probably of some domestic animal such as dogs, poultry, or rabbits. All these animals are objectionable, not so much probably from the class of animal, as from the insufficient space in the immediate vicinity of the house where they are kept. If domestic animals of the dog, poultry and rabbit class are to be kept, they should be quite away from the yard of the dwelling house.

All this may appear to some to be the ravings of the fanatic or the alarmist, but experiments by scientific observers all go to prove that there is more than the alarmist in the results of such apparently harmless pets as poultry, rabbits, and dogs, when kept in close proximity to dwellings, and further the experience of areas which have abolished the privy and ash-closet amply prove that as such receptacles disappear so does infantile diarrhœa to a very marked extent, as is shown by the lessened death-rate.

The other great infant-killer are debilitating ante-natal conditions, due in many cases to causes over which a sanitary authority has a very indirect, if any, sway, such as immaturity or some enfeebling condition inherited from one or both parents. These causes are hidden, difficult, even impossible, to ascertain, but nevertheless are particularly destructive to infant life, but are causes which apparently do not vary much from year to year, and probably are not affected by the surroundings of the house so far as your area is concerned. It is highly probable that many of these born weaklings who now succumb within a few days or weeks of birth might live if mothers were fully aware of the best possible means of preserving the lives of such weaklings, but where such knowledge does not exist, quickly death steps in and relieves the mother of her care.

The work of the health visitor will I am sure do good eventually, but the fight will be an uphill one, and years will elapse before much good is visible, and further legislation may be necessary before the work of reforming Councils can bear its legitimate fruit.

The Commission on the prevention of syphilis is continuing its labours and its findings are awaited with curiosity as to whether they will find a way out of the present difficulty of dealing effectively with syphilitic parents, whose selfishness imposes on their innocent children deaths innumerable, and sufferings untold. I consider that no qualms of conscience, no nonsense as liberty of the subject should prevent the strongest possible measures being taken against the spread of syphilis, and that substantial penalties be inflicted in the case of wilful syphilisation of an innocent person.

I am convinced that the more investigations made as to the causes of declining number of live children born the more assuredly would my assertions be proved, and when this country has time after the termination of a victorious and just war to turn its attentions to peace and recuperation, one of the earliest moments should be devoted to prohibit by terms of long imprisonment, the sale of abortifacients, so that the loss (and it will be serious) of our best manhood should be speedily made good. Not only will many of the best physically be lost to the nation, but a large proportion of the neophytes of the next few years may be expected to be produced by the nation's weaklings, men deficient physically or heroically.

The birth-rate for the Administrative County is 31.1 per 1,000, as compared with 30.6 per 1,000 last year, and the rate for England and Wales is 23.3 per 1,000, as compared with 23.9 per 1,000 for last year.

The rates for the different townships vary from 8.85 per 1,000 to 41.28 per 1,000.

In townships whose population is 2,000 and upwards the highest rates are in Pelton (41.28), Witton Gilbert (36.65), Usworth (35.40) and Lumley Great (34.41); and the lowest rates are, in, Lamesley (26.77), Harraton (29.12), Birtley (30.68) and Lumley Little (30.69).

During the year there were registered the births of 73 illegitimate children as compared with the births of 88 illegitimate children last year. This gives 3.25 per cent. of all births as compared with 4.06 per cent. last year.

First Quarter, Deaths ...	247	Rate, 14.70 per 1,000
Second ,, ,, ...	232	,, 13.81 ,,
Third ,, ,, ...	269	,, 16.01 ,,
Fourth ,, ,, ...	231	,, 13.75 ,,

The general Death rate for each township will be found in Table XI.

In townships having a population of 2,000 and upwards, the highest general death rates are in Pelton (18.29), Lumley Great (18.12), Lumley Little (16.30) and Urpeth (16.23), and least in Usworth (12.47), Edmondsley (12.66), Lamesley (12.87) and Witton Gilbert (13.43). Pelton, again, is amongst the highest four, whilst Lamesley is as usual amongst the lowest four.

The Infant Death-rate in townships having a population of 2,000, and upwards are highest, in Lumley Great (207.8), Pelton (174.9), Edmondsley (164.5), and Birtley (156.7), and are lowest in Harraton (61.2), Lumley Little (78.1), Washington (107.4) and Lamesley (109.1).

First Quarter, Deaths ...	73	Rate, 125.8 per 1,000 born
Second " " ...	58	" 101.4 "
Third " " ...	116	" 193.9 "
Fourth " " ...	71	" 145.1 "

Deaths from the seven chief Zymotic diseases, viz.: Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Fever (Enteric and Typhus), Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa, number 191, as compared with 138 last year, and with 93 during the previous year. The increase is seen in every one of these diseases save Measles, Smallpox and Typhus. In the latter two diseases no deaths occurred, the diseases not being present. Diarrhœa produced 56 more deaths, Enteric Fever 4 more, Scarlet Fever 28 more, Diphtheria 1 more, Whooping Cough 12 more, and Measles 38 fewer.

The Zymotic death-rate is 2.84 per 1,000, as compared with 2.07 per 1,000 last year, and with 1.41 per 1,000 the previous year.

The Zymotic death-rate for the Administrative County is 2.20 per 1,000, as compared with 1.85 per 1,000 last year. Excluding Diarrhœa, the Zymotic death-rate for your district is 1.17 per 1,000, as compared with a Zymotic death-rate for the Administrative County of 1.08 per 1,000, and a rate for England and Wales of 0.77 per 1,000.

Following the method pursued by the Registrar General for calculating the Diarrhœal death-rate of children under two years of age as so many per 1,000 born, your district's rate is 42.29 per 1,000 born, the rate for the Administrative County is 36.06 per 1,000 born, and that for England and Wales is 20.41 per 1,000 born. The Diarrhœal death-rate for your district is thus more than twice that of England and Wales, and considerably higher than that for the County generally.

In townships with a population of 2,000 and upwards, the highest zymotic death-rates are in Lumley Little (5.75), Edmondsley (5.67), Lumley Great (3.98), and Pelton (3.61); and the lowest are in Harraton (0.59), Usworth (1.76), Lamesley (2.19) and Witton Gilbert (2.47).

The following table gives the number of deaths from the seven chief zymotic diseases during the past three years.

DISEASE.				1912	1913	1914
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	2	4	32
Measles ...	...	...	...	26	41	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	29	11	23
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	5	12	13
Fever (Enteric or Typhoid) ...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	27	66	112

The number of deaths from diarrhœa is considerably above that of the years 1912 and 1913, but somewhat below that of the year 1911. Of the 112 deaths from Diarrhœa 75 or 66.9 per cent. are of children under one year old, and 20 or 17.8 per cent. are children over one year, but under two years old, so that 84.7 per cent. of all deaths from diarrhœa take place in children in the very tenderest years of infancy. Unfortunately the vital powers of the infant are unable to withstand the toxins of micro-organic life, and the most sensitive barometer of unhygienic conditions of a locality is the infant. Given an insanitary surrounding and there surely follows a sacrifice of child life.

If one takes the mortality from Diarrhœa alone, the highest death-rates in townships having a population of 2,000 and upwards are: Lumley Great (2.65), Urpeth (2.51), Edmondsley (2.18), and Birtley (2.17); and the lowest in Lamesley (0.87), Usworth (1.00), Pelton (1.68), and Washington (1.72).

BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

During the year the births of 73 illegitimate children were registered, as compared with 88 last year. This gives an illegitimate birth-rate of 1.08 per 1,000, as compared with 1.32 per 1,000 last year.

The number of deaths of illegitimate children equals 25, as compared with 20 deaths last year.

The infant illegitimate death-rate is 342.4 per 1,000 born, as compared with an infant death-rate of 134.8 per 1,000 born in wedlock.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Quin- quennial Average.	Year.	General Death Rate.	Quin- quennial Average.
1887	39.00	36.77	1887	18.87	18.76
1888	37.70		1888	18.16	
1889	34.60		1889	18.50	
1890	35.80		1890	19.50	
1891	39.50	39.96	1891	19.90	19.20
1892	39.70		1892	19.10	
1893	40.40		1893	20.80	
1894	39.50		1894	20.10	
1895	40.70	38.39	1895	19.70	18.51
1896	38.09		1896	19.00	
1897	37.80		1897	16.50	
1898	38.78		1898	18.35	
1899	38.31		1899	18.44	
1900	38.96		1900	20.26	

Year.	Birth-Rate.	Quin- quennial Average.	Year.	General Death Rate.	Quin- quennial Average.
1901	... 39.12	38.53	1901	... 19.26	18.31
1902	... 38.58		1902	... 17.29	
1903	... 38.36		1903	... 18.81	
1904	... 38.87		1904	... 18.50	
1905	... 37.71		1905	... 17.69	
1906	... 36.52	36.61	1906	... 16.59	16.13
1907	... 34.75		1907	... 16.44	
1908	... 37.49		1908	... 17.67	
1909	... 37.63		1909	... 15.01	
1910	... 36.65		1910	... 14.85	
1911	... 34.26		1911	... 16.34	
1912	... 33.71		1912	... 13.91	
1913	... 32.54		1913	... 14.17	
1914	... 33.42		1914	... 14.40	

Year.	Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000.		Year.	Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Born.	
1887	2.69	1887	... 201.0	179.3
1888	... ..		1888	... 177.7
1889	... 2.30		1889	... 166.0	
1890	... 3.30		1890	... 172.6	
1891	... 2.10		1891	... 174.9	
1892	... 2.50	2.91	1892	... 146.1	171.7
1893	... 3.40		1893	... 177.6	
1894	... 3.30		1894	... 177.0	
1895	... 2.27		1895	... 183.0	
1896	... 3.72		1896	... 182.0	
1897	... 2.17	2.74	1897	... 147.5	179.0
1898	... 3.41		1898	... 198.8	
1899	... 2.93		1899	... 169.0	
1900	... 2.44		1900	... 197.7	
1901	... 3.41		1901	... 177.3	
1902	... 1.89	2.21	1902	... 137.5	172.1
1903	... 2.34		1903	... 174.6	
1904	... 3.07		1904	... 191.6	
1905	... 3.01		1905	... 179.4	
1906	... 2.42		1906	... 163.0	
1907	... 1.56	2.21	1907	... 148.3	154.6
1908	... 3.53		1908	... 176.5	
1909	... 1.78		1909	... 140.6	
1910	... 1.78		1910	... 144.8	
1911	... 3.50		1911	... 188.6	
1912	... 1.41		1912	... 120.6	
1913	... 2.07		1914	... 141.2	
1914	... 2.84		1913	... 136.4	

The following table gives the chief rates for your district, the Administrative County, and for England and Wales per 1,000 of the estimated populations:

	Chester-le- Street.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
Estimated Population ...	67,194	988,750	36,960,684
Birth Rate per 1,000 ...	33.42	31.10	23.80
Death Rate per 1,000 ...	14.40	14.90	13.70
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 ...	2.84	2.07	...
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 born ...	141.20	134.00	105.0
Death Rate per 1,000 living:—			
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.47	0.22	0.08
Diphtheria ...	0.19	0.23	0.15
Fever (Enteric) ...	0.11	0.11	0.05
Measles ...	0.04	0.17	0.24
Whooping Cough ...	0.34	0.36	0.21
Diarrhœa ...	1.66	1.12	...
Phthisis ...	0.55	0.92	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0.50	0.42	...
Acute Respiratory Diseases other than Phthisis ...	2.14	2.29	...

PHTHISIS.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Phthisis notified during the year are 105, as compared with 82 last year. Of these 27, or 25.7 per cent. are under 15 years of age; 37, or 35.2 per cent. are between that age and 25 years old, so that practically 60 per cent. of cases of Phthisis take place between birth and 25 years of age.

From other tubercular diseases, such as Tubercular Meningitis, Tubercle of bones, and of Abdominal organs, there were 60 notifications as compared with 57 such notifications last year. Of these, 48, or 80.0 per cent. occurred under the age of 15 years. This percentage last year was 78.9, so that the two years correspond very closely so far as age period is concerned.

If one now turns to the death table it will be found that 37 deaths were registered from Phthisis as compared with 50 deaths last year. This gives a death-rate 0.55 per 1,000, as compared with 0.70 per 1,000 last year, and with a rate of 0.56 per 1,000, during the previous year.

The deaths from other Tubercular Diseases number 34, as compared with 54 last year, and equal a rate of 0.50 per 1,000, as compared with a death-rate of 0.81 per 1,000 last year.

The total death-rate from Tubercular Diseases is 1.05 per 1000 as compared with that of 1.51 per 1,000 last year, and with 1.58 per 1,000 the previous year.

The Phthisis death-rate for the Administrative County is 0.92 per 1,000, and the death-rate for other Tubercular Diseases is 0.42, per 1,000, or a total death-rate from Tubercle of 1.34 per 1,000.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

As I mentioned in my last year's report, the Prevention and Treatment of Tubercular diseases have to some extent passed from your surveillance to that of the County Council and County Insurance Committee. Advisedly I say "to some extent," because whatever the County Council, or rather the County Insurance, may be doing under the provisions of the National Insurance Act, one cannot get away from the fact that your Council is the Health Authority of your District.

The County Insurance Committee are fishing in troubled waters in their laudable desire to carry out the provisions of the National Insurance Act, so as to reduce the incidence of Phthisis and to cure the patients now suffering from Phthisis. In both cases they are undertaking the labour of Sisyphus, but it appears very doubtful if the stone will ever reach half-way up the hill. I am convinced that the more one studies the effects of Sanatorium treatment the less is one enamoured with its prosecution, at least in the manner one now sees it prosecuted. I am not prepared to say anything respecting the effects of Dispensary treatment as I have had no experience of such, but Domiciliary treatment is in my opinion much the same good as Sanatorium, prolonging in most instances the life of an incurable person, and so far as Domiciliary treatment is concerned giving more chance for further spreading of tubercular disease in the family of the infected person.

At the Leed's Meeting of the "National Society for the Prevention of Tubercule," most of the speakers dwelt on the fact that the house was a most important factor, if not the chief factor, in the propagation and dissemination of Tubercular infection. This I am sure, will not, and cannot, be gainsaid by those who have given the slightest consideration to the chief evils which are at work in the prolongation of one of the most fatal of diseases.

Are the patients who have the benefit of Sanatoria thankful or otherwise for the care lavished on them? The great majority if not all, are "otherwise."

There can be no more difficult task, or a more thankless one, imposed on any person than to set him or her to supervise a Sanatorium, whose patients are those of a County Insurance Committee.

That is probably a rather strong statement to make, but it can be amply proved.

I should like, in furtherance of this subject, to repeat, in toto, the remarks I made on the same subject in my last year's annual report, and to emphasise them if possible.

During a part of the year (March to December), 103 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, all being sent by the County Insurance Committee. Of these, 16, or 10.6 per cent. were between 5 and 15 years of age; 27, or 26.2 per cent. between 15 and 25 years; 21, or 20.3 per cent., between 25 and 35 years; 26, or 25.2 per cent. between 35 and 45 years; 12 or 11.6 per cent., between 45 and 55 years; 5, or 4.8 per cent., between 55 and 65 years; and 1, or 0.97 per cent., above 65 years.

During the same period 79 patients were discharged, of whom 2, or 2.5 per cent., were much improved; 62, or 78.6 per cent. were improved; 13, or 16.4 per cent., remained stationary during their residence; 1, or 1.20 per cent., was worse; and 1, or 1.20 per cent. died. On the 31st December there remained under treatment 24.

DEATHS FROM ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES OTHER THAN PHTHISIS.

The number of deaths from these diseases (Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy and other Acute Respiratory Diseases) are 144, as compared with 140 last year, and with 162 during the previous year.

This gives a death-rate of 2.14 per 1,000, as compared with 2.10 per 1,000 last year, and with 2.39 per 1,000 during the previous year. The rate for the Administrative County is 2.29 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 2.53 per 1,000 for last year.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The number of deaths, the cause of which has neither been certified by a qualified medical practitioner or by a Coroner, are 12, as compared with 11 last year, and with 14 during the previous year. This equals a percentage of 1.22 of all deaths, as compared with a percentage of 1.62 last year.

The percentage of uncertified deaths to all deaths for England and Wales is 1.20.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(EXCLUDING PHTHISIS).

The number of infectious diseases notified this year is 943, as compared with 464 last year, and with 349 during the previous year.

Of these, 726, or 78.04 per cent. are Scarlet Fever, as compared with 67.02 per cent. last year; 33, or 3.50 per cent. are Enteric Fever, as compared with 6.25 per cent. last year; 89, or 9.04 per cent., are Diphtheria, as compared with 13.57 per cent. last year; 5, or 0.52 per cent. are Puerperal Fever, as compared with 0.21 per cent. last year; 83, or 8.80 per cent. are Erysipelas, as compared with 15.73 per cent. last year; 1, or 0.10 per cent. is Polio-Myelitis, and 6, or 0.63 per cent. are Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were no cases of Polio-Myelitis notified last year, and the last disease mentioned was not notifiable until the present year.

It is seen that there has been a very marked increase in the total number of infectious diseases, an increase equalling a little over 103 per cent., and this year shows the greatest number of notifications since 1903. The attack rate per 1,000 this year is 14.03 per 1,000, whilst the attack rate in the last high-water year was 18.78 per 1,000.

The following table gives the statistics for each quarter of the year, and the number of notifications, with the attack rate per 1,000 of the population since the adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act in 1890.

First Quarter	.....	270 cases
Second „	.....	229 cases
Third „	.....	201 cases
Fourth „	.....	243 cases

Year.	No. of Notifications.	Attack Rate per 1,000.
1890	403	9.61
1891	412	8.15
1892	574	11.14
1893	842	16.15
1894	538	10.14
1895	711	12.75
1896	819	14.26
1897	378	6.63
1898	403	6.87
1899	485	8.13
1900	683	11.27
1901	822	13.51
1902	818	12.95
1903	1211	18.78
1904	789	11.85
1905	655	9.49
1906	484	6.82
1907	498	6.82
1908	685	9.14
1909	574	9.14
1910	353	5.52
1911	377	5.90
1912	349	5.29
1913	464	6.96
1914	943	14.03

As many cases as possible are visited, and instructions given as to the best means of preventing the disease spreading. How carefully these instructions are followed in the majority of cases, I am afraid coincides with the convenience of the parents, and not with the protection of the neighbouring children.

	Chester-le- Street.	Administrative County.
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	10.80	7.89
Diphtheria	1.32	1.67
Enteric Fever	0.49	0.59
Typhus Fever	0.00	0.00
Puerperal Fever	0.07	0.04
Cholera	0.00	0.00
Plague	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	1.23	0.77
Glanders in Man	0.00	0.00
Anthrax in Man	0.00	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0.00	...

	Chester-le- Street.	Administrative County.
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...	0.001	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0.08	0.13
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1.56	1.78
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0.96	0.95

The attack rate of all the infections enumerated in the above table equals 16.51 per 1,000 for your district, as compared with 13.82 per 1,000 for the Administrative County.

SMALLPOX.

The district was entirely free from Smallpox during the year.

The number of exemptions from Vaccination are greater this year than ever, and the number of susceptible individuals is increasing year by year. The theory of the liberty of the subject holds its sway in the matter of vaccination, and the general rate payer has to pay very dearly for this fetish of liberty of the subject.

In the following table I give the figures for Vaccination in the Chester-le-Street Poor Law Union:—

Year.	Births.	Vaccinated.	Exempted.	Percentage of Unvaccinated Children.
1905	2612	1966	47	2.33
1906	2588	1964	59	2.91
1907	2534	1792	124	6.47
1908	2810	1682	523	23.71
1909	2876	1525	690	31.15
1910	2829	1525	853	35.87
1911	2685	1492	853	36.37
1912	2696	1329	970	42.19
1913	2696	1320	977	42.57
1914	2719	1195	1095	47.81

SCARLET FEVER.

The activity of this disease during the fourth quarter of last year continued to manifest itself with increased acuteness during the first quarter of the present year, nor did its activity lessen much as the year aged.

This year there were notified 726 cases, as compared with 300 cases last year, and with 234 cases during the previous year. This is a huge incidence, and has not been equalled for 11 years, viz.: not since 1903.

The attack rate equals 10.80 per 1,000, as compared with an attack rate of 4.50 per 1,000 last year, and with an attack rate of 3.55 per 1,000 during the previous year.

The attack rate for the Administrative County is 4.20 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 5.86 per 1,000 last year.

The type this year is very much more fatal than in any previous year for a considerable time, the number of deaths this year reaching 32, as compared with 4 last year, and with 2 during the previous year.

The case mortality this year is 4.40 per cent. as compared with 1.33 per cent. last year, and with 0.84 per cent. during the previous year.

The mild type which has prevailed for some years gave place to a much more severe type, and there has not been such a severe type during the past 30 years.

Scarlet Fever has claimed so little respect owing to its mildness in causing deaths, that little, if any, fear possesses the minds of parents, and consequently few if any precautions are taken to protect healthy children from an attack of Scarlet Fever.

During the whole of the first quarter of the year and a part of the second quarter, alongside of true scarlet fever there was present another exanthem with characteristics somewhat similar to scarlet fever, and such cases were generally notified to be Scarlet Fever. Without doubt this exanthem was entirely different from Scarlet Fever, different in the rash, and general symptoms, and certainly different in the length of time of illness. It was of a mild nature, and did not cause either death or sequelæ. How many of these cases were notified as true Scarlet Fever, I have no means of knowing, but judging from the number admitted to hospital, there must have been a fairly high percentage.

If these cases could have been excluded the attack rate per 1,000 for Scarlet Fever would have been considerably lessened, but the case mortality would have been very much higher.

The severe type of the disease caused more than the usual number to suffer from sequelæ, such as otitis media, a rather dangerous accompaniment of scarlet fever, and one somewhat difficult to cure, and which often causes death in after years by septic invasion of the membranes of the brain. The weekly number of notifications did not show much falling off when the end of the year was reached.

The townships where the disease was most prevalent were Lumley Little (110 cases), Pelton (100), Birtley (87), Walderidge (60), Burnmoor (59) and Harraton (58).

The following table gives the number of cases and the attack rate for the district since 1890, and the second table compares the attack rate of your district with that of the Administrative County.

Year.	Number of Cases Notified.	Attack Rate per 1,000.
1890	284	5.73
1891	267	5.28
1892	404	7.81
1893	331	6.31
1894	304	5.72
1895	495	8.90
1896	553	9.75
1897	217	3.80
1898	273	4.65
1899	333	5.40
1900	527	8.69
1901	631	10.37
1902	554	8.87
1903	872	13.52
1904	458	6.88
1905	383	5.55
1906	223	3.14
1907	264	3.61
1908	390	5.20
1909	379	6.20
1910	199	3.11
1911	148	2.31
1912	234	3.55
1913	300	4.50
1914	726	10.80

The following table gives the respective rates for the County and your district since 1894:—

Year.	District.	County per 1,000.
1894	5.72	5.54
1895	8.90	6.62
1896	9.75	5.88
1897	3.80	3.45
1898	4.65	4.11
1899	5.40	6.17
1900	8.69	7.47
1901	10.37	7.97
1902	8.87	7.08
1903	13.52	6.90
1904	6.88	5.74
1905	5.55	4.24

Year.	District.	County per 1,000.
1906	3.14	3.18
1907	3.61	2.68
1908	5.20	3.04
1909	6.20	4.37
1910	3.11	3.94
1911	2.31	3.50
1912	3.55	5.94
1913	4.50	5.93
1914	10.80	7.89

MEASLES.

The fatality from Measles was almost nil this year, a great contrast from its death toll of last year. The number of deaths were only 3, as compared with 41 deaths last year.

This gives a death-rate of 0.04 per 1,000 as compared with 0.61 per 1,000 last year.

The death-rate from this disease in the Administrative County is 0.14 per 1,000 and that for England and Wales is 0.24

Judging by the number of deaths one may suppose that Measles were less prevalent in your district than in the County as a whole, or in England and Wales as a whole.

Deaths from Measles were reported from the townships of Lamesley (2), and Lumley Little (1) only, two of the deaths being those of children under 2 years of age and one death in a child over 5 years but under 15 years of age.

ENTERIC FEVER.

This tedious and fatal fever has not been by any means prevalent in your district during the year. The total number of cases notified are 33, as compared with 29 last year, and with 12 during the previous year, and though it is the greatest number for any one of the past three years, yet it is under the average of the five years ending 1913, and considerably below the average for the 5 years ending 1908.

The climatic condition, being dry and warm, were favourable to the prevalence of Enteric Fever, yet no burst of Enteric Fever appeared. The highest number of cases occurred in the townships of Lumley Great (7), Lamesley (6), Washington and Birdley (5 cases each).

The attack rate (of all cases notified) per 1,000 of the population has been 0.49, as compared with an attack rate of 0.43 per 1,000 last year, and with an attack rate of 0.18 per 1,000 during the previous year.

The attack rate for the Administrative County has been 0.59 per 1,000.

The following table gives the number of cases, and the attack rate per 1,000 for each year since 1890, which was the commencement of compulsory notification of infectious diseases,

Year.	Number of Notifications.	Attack Rate per 1,000.
1890	53	1.26
1891	71	1.40
1892	69	1.34
1893	353	6.77
1894	111	2.09
1895	72	1.30
1896	108	1.88
1897	33	0.57
1898	39	0.66
1899	57	0.95
1900	57	0.94
1901	71	1.16
1902	67	1.07
1903	32	0.49
1904	48	0.71
1905	78	1.13
1906	65	0.91
1907	23	0.31
1908	112	1.49
1909	51	0.81
1910	28	0.44
1911	57	0.89
1912	12	0.18
1913	29	0.43
1914	33	0.49

In Table VII will be seen the distribution of the disease so far as townships and months of the year are concerned.

Every case was carefully investigated as to the probable cause. Many of the cases were sporadic and it was impossible to discover the cause in these cases.

With regard to the 7 cases which occurred in the Village of Lumley, one was not Enteric, but the other 6 were cases of Enteric Fever. Four of the cases were notified within seven days of each other, and though I failed to discover any cause, it is highly probable that these cases had a common origin, probably a carrier. All the cases were females and all lived or had close family ties within a radius of 100 yards. The other two cases occurred later, and had not probably any connection with the first four.

The townships supplied with deep well water did not suffer this year in proportion to former years, yet the fact must not be overlooked that the township of Washington had four cases, a township supplied with deep well water, whilst the adjacent township of Usworth supplied by other water, had only one case, and this patient, by her family connections, was frequently in Washington township.

DIPHTHERIA (OR MEMBRANOUS CROUP).

There was a further increase in the number of notified cases of Diphtheria during the year as compared with the two previous years.

The number of cases notified were 89, as compared with 61 last year, and with 39 during the previous year.

This gives an attack rate of 1.32 per 1,000, as compared with an attack rate of 0.93 per 1,000 during last year, and with an attack rate of 0.59 per 1,000 during the previous year. The disease was notified from 13 townships as compared with 10 townships last year.

As to age distribution 28 cases or 31.4 per cent. were under 5 years of age, and 53 or 59.3 per cent. were between 5 and 15 years of age.

It is quite possible that the notified cases do not represent the actual number of cases of diphtheria. Sometimes diphtheria is not easily recognised by clinical signs alone, and when a death is notified in a young child as occurring from acute Laryngitis or Laryngismus Stridulus there is some suspicion that the disease is diphtheria.

The number of deaths from this disease was 13, or a case mortality of 14.6 per cent. as compared with a case mortality of 19.67 last year, and with a case mortality of 12.82 for the year 1912.

The case mortality was over twice as high amongst children treated at home as it was amongst those treated in the hospital. There were 38 cases of Diphtheria treated at the hospital with 3 deaths or a case mortality of 7.89 per cent. Whilst 52 cases were treated at home with 10 deaths or a case mortality of 19.2 per cent.

During the year Antitoxin has been supplied to 15 medical practitioners, the numbers of units being 216,000, as compared with 7 practitioners, and 168,000 units last year.

The following table gives the number of cases notified, and the number of deaths in each quarter of the year.

First Quarter	25	cases notified,	2	deaths,	8.00	per cent.
Second	18	„	3	„	16.66	„
Third	20	„	1	„	5.00	„
Fourth	26	„	7	„	26.92	„

The following table gives the number of cases and the attack rate per 1,000 since the adoption of the Notification Act of 1890.

Year.	Number of Notifications.	Attack Rate per 1,000.
1890	6	0.11
1891	15	0.30
1892	27	0.52
1893	29	0.55
1894	15	0.28
1895	16 .....	...
1896	57	1.00
1897	21	0.36
1898	16	0.27
1899	10	0.16
1900	17	0.28
1901	33	0.54
1902	64	1.02
1903	128	1.98
1904	130	1.95
1905	80	1.15
1906	112	1.58
1907	128	1.75
1908	104	1.38
1909	76	1.21
1910	53	0.83
1911	92	1.44
1912	39	0.59
1913	61	0.93
1914	89	1.32

PUERPERAL FEVER.

The number of cases of Puerperal Fever notified has been 5, as compared with one case last year, and with none during the previous year. The number of deaths registered from this disease has been 9, as compared with one last year.

From these figures it appears that all the cases of Puerperal Fever have not been notified.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This distressing infant malady has caused 23 deaths during the year, as compared with 11 deaths last year, and with 29 deaths during the previous year.

The disease caused deaths in 10 townships, as compared with 3 townships last year. The disease was thus much more general than in the previous year. The township having the greatest number of deaths was Pelton (6).

DIARRHŒA.

This disease was much more prevalent this year than for the last two years.

The climatic conditions of the year under discussion were favourable to much diarrhœa, and one would have expected even a higher incidence than has actually been incurred. Whether this has been accidental or caused by the somewhat improved sanitary condition of your district can hardly be judged by a single year. One would hope that the latter cause is the explanation of this somewhat fewer deaths from diarrhœa than one would have expected from the past history of the district.

The causes ruling the incidence of diarrhœa have so often been repeated in the pages of my annual reports, that I will not again put them on paper, this year at least.

The number of deaths from diarrhœa this year is 112, or nearly double of those of last year, viz.: 66, but even greater when compared with the number occurring during the cold year of 1912, viz.: 27.

This gives a death-rate of 1.66 per 1,000, as compared with death-rate of 0.99 per 1,000 last year, and with 0.41 per 1,000 during the previous year.

The death-rate from Diarrhœa for the Administrative County was 1.12 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 0.85 per 1,000 last year.

In townships having a population of 2,000 and upwards the highest rates were in Lumley Great (2.65), Edmondsley (2.18), Birtley (2.17), and Witton Gilbert (1.95), and lowest in Lamesley (0.87), Usworth (1.00), Pelton (1.68), and Washington (1.72).

ERYSIPELAS.

The number of cases notified during the year are 83, as compared with 73 cases last year. This gives an attack rate of 1.23 per 1,000, as compared with an attack rate of 1.09 per 1,000 last year.

The attack rate for the Administrative County is 0.77 per 1,000.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

This disease, at times, a very serious affection of the eyes of the newly born infant became notifiable during the early part of the year.

It is a highly contagious disease, affecting the eye, producing intense inflammation of the external surface of the eyeball and inner surfaces of the eyelids.

Danger to sight is very great, and frequently complete blindness follows, owing to opaque cicatrices forming in the cornea and preventing light rays penetrating the eye. There are all gradations of the disease from the very slight to the very virulent. This results from the specific organism which is the cause of the disease. In gonococcal infection the result is often disastrous to the sight, even with the best treatment, and with mediocre treatment blindness is sure to result.

There were six cases notified. All were investigated, all were mild and all recovered without any permanent injury to the eye.

POLIO-MYELITIS.

One case was notified, a child aged 2 years. Recovery took place with paralysis of the left arm and hand.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

No cases were notified. A list of notifiable disease will be found in Table II.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

All these examinations are now undertaken by the County Council and paid for by that body, and the result of these examinations are sent to the District Medical Officers of Health by the County Medical Officer.

In all cases such examinations are of great assistance to the general practitioner in helping him to diagnose cases of certain diseases, where the symptoms are indefinite.

It often appears to me that in such cases as suspected Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Cerebro Spinal Fever, a more frequent use of such aids would be of advantage to the individual patient and to the district at large.

DISEASE SUSPECTED.	Number of Specimens Submitted.	RESULTS.		
		Positive.	Negative	Suspicious
Diphtheria	10	5	5	...
Enteric Fever	26	15	10	1
Phthisis	58	14	44	...
Total	94	34	59	1

DISINFECTION OF HOUSES, ARTICLES OF CLOTHING, ETC.

Systematic disinfection of houses, after infectious diseases, is not carried out. The efficiency or even need of such a process is doubtful, and certainly not worth the money which would be spent on it. I believe that clothing should be carefully disinfected after such diseases as Phthisis, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Smallpox. I consider that washing in an ordinary way is quite efficacious in the first three named diseases, but I think that a higher temperature than that of boiling point would be advisable with reference to articles infected with smallpox.

For the troops billeted within the district a considerable number of blankets and palliasses have been disinfected.

SCHOOLS.

Schools and school life being now chiefly under the control of the County Education officials the supervision of these places does not come much under me.

The same practice with reference to notifiable disease is pursued as was my practice in former years.

WATER SUPPLY.

In that area supplied by the Consett and Weardale Company there was a marked shortage in the latter part of September, October and early November. This company appear to have

an insufficient storage accommodation to supply their large area in years with a deficient rainfall. An under average rainfall during the present year was prominent during the greater part of the year, and as a consequence some of the higher portions of your area, such as Walldridge, Edmondsley and Twizell, had no water for days on end at frequent times during the month of October.

Even with this state of affairs and water of doubtful purity used for domestic purposes, there were no cases of Enteric Fever in the stricken districts.

The scarcity of water in the Lumleys continued throughout the year. A small storage reservoir has at last been built, but at the end of the year was not ready for use.

The supply of water to Usworth Colliery and a part of New Washington is not so good as it should be, caused probably by the insufficiency of pipe area.

In my last year's report there was mentioned an insufficiency of water to Kibblesworth (173 houses). I had hopes that a supply from a public Water Company would be installed, but this has not been done. The Colliery Company, who own the houses have increased the supply from their colliery workings, which your council accepted as adequate. Chemically, the water is good (on the date of analysis), but I think that it is advisable to steer clear of sources of water which can be contaminated at any moment. Water from colliery workings, where so many men may be in contact with the supply at some spot between its source and point of distribution, always in my opinion is a suspicious water, because pollution is so potentially possible.

Six houses have been supplied by the water of Newcastle and Gateshead at Lady Park, and at Fugar Bar a few houses have been supplied with water from the Consett Water Company's Mains.

Speaking generally, provided the supply was increased in the portions of your area I have named, your district is well supplied with good potable water. Only once before this year, since 1895 has there been a scarcity of water in that portion of your district supplied by the Weardale and Consett Water Company. This company I understand, is about to apply to Parliament for powers to construct enlarged storage reservoirs and to increase the price of their water. The former is absolutely necessary, the latter is not necessary.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This perennial question has been as much before your Council as in former years, and the efficiency of contractors does not improve by age.

I should like to emphasise the opinion I have expressed in probably every Annual Report I have written, that scavenging by contract is not ideal and never will be.

The system makes efficiency in its true meaning impossible. In contracting one has, as it were, two forces in direct opposition. The force represented by profit, and the force represented by efficiency. Contractors compete one against the other to secure the work, and if their price is low, sufficiently low, to secure to them the contract, it follows that they must exercise the greatest economy if they are to be remunerated sufficiently at the year's end. Now to one man sufficient profit may mean insufficient gain to another, and so efficiency must be encroached upon according to the economic psychology of the contractor.

Eliminate profit and there is only one force, that of efficiency. Efficiency can only be obtained by Municipal scavenging.

I am convinced that if the scavenging of your whole district was undertaken by your own plant and men, controlled by a good organiser, that you would in two or three years be able to do the work as cheaply as you are now doing the work by contractors, but that the scavenging would be efficiently done, instead of nearly every month having complaints of imperfect scavenging, as one now experiences under the present conditions.

It does not appear to me that the conditions, made in the new contracts last year, per se, have done much, if any good, so far as better scavenging is concerned.

Mr. Swaddle says, "The work has been well attended to in Cocken and Plawsworth" (small parishes), "also in Witton Gilbert, with the exception of Sacriston eastern area, where there were several cases of neglect due to insufficient supervision" (on the contractor's part) "there being no one in charge of workmen."

"In Great Lumley, occasional cause for complaint, entirely due to carelessness of workmen."

"The work in Edmondsley parish was well attended to except Twizell Colliery section."

“In Pelton Parish (Grange Villa and West Pelton sections) there was frequent neglect up to 31st March, when contract was determined.” “The new contractor is doing his work well.”

“Since August, there has been frequent cause for complaint in Urpeth and Ouston parishes, there was an improvement in Beamish and No Place sections after a personal interview with the contractor, but in the eastern part of Urpeth Parish and Ouston Parish there was no improvement at the end of the year.”

“In Birtley Parish there has been almost continual trouble.”

“There has been a marked reduction in the number of nuisances arising from refuse tips” (now under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors) “due to the better control possible under the new contracts.”

Respecting the other districts in your area, I am not in a position to give definite information. Mr. Brown was mobilised in August and Mr. Wadge entered a Sanitary Company in December, and I have been unable to get the usual particulars from them, and though I know there has been frequent neglect of scavenging in the other areas I cannot say anything more definite.

From the indictment of the scavenging in many areas appearing year by year, one cannot think of any real remedy save municipal scavenging.

I have observed frequently that the covers of the scavenging carts have been non-existent or rolled up, and that dust from the carts often blow about the streets and roads.

Again the overfilling of carts is as common as ever. This overfilling is the cause of littering more or less the streets and roads with the refuse from the ashpits.

The control of the tips by the Inspectors has been productive of much good. There are fewer cases of tipping by roadsides though a few still continue.

The depositing of ashpit refuse in fields and the neglect of speedy ploughing in has been the cause of some complaints during the year, but as time goes on probably this will cease to some extent also, and if the scavenging was under your Council's direct control there would be no difficulty in preventing this fairly common nuisance.

The following table gives the cost of scavenging for the year ending 31st March, 1915, in the several Townships:

Township.	Gross Cost per annum.			Average Cost per house per annum in pence.
	£	s.	d.	
Biddick	15	9	0	... 176.9
Birtley	792	7	11	... 109.7
Burnmoor	146	2	11	... 139.8
Cocken	18	0	0	... 130.9
Edmondsley	230	1	1	... 117.4
Harraton	374	3	11	... 134.8
Lambton	18	18	8	... 146.6
Lamesley	699	8	9	... 119.1
Lumley, Great	257	1	3	... 135.2
Lumley, Little	215	19	4	... 142.3
Ouston	107	7	4	... 157.1
Pelton	1,302	4	6	... 177.1
Plawsworth	180	14	6	... 147.5
Urpeth	352	13	4	... 111.8
Usworth	652	5	2	... 104.9
Washington	871	4	3	... 133.7
Witton Gilbert	849	3	10	... 125.1

The total cost of scavenging of the parishes enumerated is £7,083 5s. 9d. for the year ending 31st March, 1915.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE YEAR, AND REQUIRED IN THE FUTURE.

The outbreak of war in the early days of August paralysed to a considerable degree the improvements of houses which would have taken place during the latter part of the year. Your Council resolved that work incurring much expense would not be demanded of owners, since trade and labour would probably be disorganised by the demands of the war.

BARMSTON.

This small township is in good sanitary condition. The real improvement required here is the conversion of the ash closets into water closets.

BIRTLEY.

In this township a fair amount of improvements of a minor nature has taken place, chiefly in the shape of general repairs to houses and drains. One privy has been abolished, and some water closets erected.

Six streets of 533 lineal yards have been made by the owners under the supervision of the Highway Surveyor.

BURNMOOR.

The houses in this townships are in the same state as they were last year.

COCKEN.

Several houses and drains have been repaired and High Cocken Cottages (2) closed.

EDMONDSLEY.

There are no improvements in streets or houses in this township. Twenty privies have been demolished and ash-closets erected in their place. Nine houses have been generally repaired, 8 houses spouted, 1 floor relaid, several drains repaired, and 3 water closets provided in place of a less sanitary form. Four houses have been closed at Mount Pleasant (2) and West Edmondsley Cottages (2).

HARRATON.

In this township much could be done but little has been accomplished. Four houses have been considerably improved. Seven houses have been closed at Old Mill (2), Wormhill Cottage (1), Chatershaugh (1), The Square (1), and Fatfield Farm (2).

At West Cottages, 3 houses closed last year have been demolished and the site cleared.

At Peartree Cottage, 2 water closets have replaced 2 privy ashpits, and at South View one water closet has been provided.

LAMESLEY.

Further improvements have taken place in this township. The houses (7) at Lady Park have been given a supply of water from the Newcastle and Gateshead Company's Mains.

LUMLEY, GREAT.

General repairs have been effected to 4 houses, 8 privy ashpits have been abolished, and 10 ash-closets erected, several drains and ash-closets have been repaired. Houses have been closed at Front Street (1), Hood's Fold (1), and Back 'o the Shaft (9). On part of the latter site several new houses have been erected.

Nothing further to improve the Stackyard, Woodman's Place, Hood's Fold, area of the Village of Lumley has been able to be carried out, and this very necessary improvement must wait until Mars give slumbers, and the temple of Janus is closed.

The water supply of this village has been defective off and on for the whole year, but means are being adopted to provide a better supply in the future.

LUMLEY, LITTLE.

At the Second Pit two houses have been made into one.

PELTON.

A very fair number of improvements have been made in this township in the repairing of house roofs (10), spouts (8), generally repaired (24), ash-closets repaired (92) drains repaired (56), privies abolished (32), water closets provided (18), ashclosets built (28), ash bins provided (10) and drains constructed (16).

Ten houses have been closed at William Street (3) and George Street (3), West Pelton; Munroe's Buildings (3), Pelton, and Club Row (1), Pelton Fell.

PLAWSWORTH.

General repairs have been carried out as follows: Roofs repaired (12), spouting repaired (11), floors cemented (5), yards cemented (4), privies abolished (19), water closets provided (3), ash-closets built (22), drains constructed (9), and five dwelling houses were closed at Station Road, Plawsworth (2), Tan Hills Farm (2), and Nettlesworth North House (1).

USWORTH.

The following improvements have taken place in general repairs at Hunter's Street and Prospect Terrace, Springwell, (8), Usworth Village (2), Usworth Colliery (12), and Waterloo (4).

Forty-one houses have been closed at The Square (24), and Middle High Row (13), Usworth Colliery; Candy Bank (1), Robinson's Buildings (1), and Stone Cellars (2), Usworth Village.

The completion of the Council's Houses in this township was accomplished during the year.

Six streets of 400 lineal yards have been made in connection with the Council's Housing Scheme in this parish.

At Heatherhill, Springwell, 4 privy ashpits were replaced by 4 water closets, at Douglas Terrace 2 privy ashpits were abolished and 2 water-closets built in their stead; Front Street, New Washington, 1 water closet was erected, and at Quarry

Row, Usworth Colliery, 26 water-closets were built in proximity to the houses in lieu of 26 ashpit privies situated a considerable distance from the houses. This was a very marked improvement.

At New Rows 94 ashclosets badly situated in a narrow back street should be converted to water-closets, but the general disorganisation of labour consequent on the war stopped this very necessary improvement.

There have been 32 privies and 2 ash-closets demolished.

WASHINGTON.

Twenty-five back-yards have been concreted at the following places: Speculation Place (8), Shaftoe Terrace (10); Grey's Buildings (5), Washington Village; Railway View (2), Washington Station.

Sixty-one privy ashpits and 9 ash-closets have been abolished and 69 water-closets have been erected at the following places: Speculation Place (10), Shaftoe Terrace (10), Spout Lane (2), Washington Village (5); Brandy Row (1), and at Washington Station, Albert Place (3), Harold Street (6), Bell Street (6), North Eastern Railway Cottages (21), Cork Works (3), and the Willows (2).

Twenty-nine streets of 2,266 lineal yards have been properly made under the provisions of the Private Streets Works Act.

WITTON GILBERT.

In this parish a fair amount of general sanitary improvements have been effected, consisting of general repairs as follows: Roofs repaired (18), spouts repaired (12), floors cemented or laid in wood (6), yards cemented (25), privies abolished (45), water-closets provided (19), ash-closets erected (35), water-closets repaired (19), drains constructed (13), drains repaired (23), and other minor improvements. Tenements have been reduced at Tunstall Lodge (1), Grey Horse Inn Cottage (1), and houses have been closed at Sacriston Gates house (1), and Front Street (1), Sacriston.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

I have very little to add to my remarks made hereon last year.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

This matter remains in exactly the same state as described in last year's report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Generally, the same remarks apply as have been made previously. There is, however, a greater tendency, or rather I should say less objection to the water closet now, than in former years, and though there have been some conversions I believe that had this year been a normal year of peace, many more ash-closets would have ceased to exist, and many more water closets been erected than have taken place.

Last year I gave the number of nuisances taking place in the different class of closets, viz.:—Water closets, ash closets, and privies. I do not have the figures this year for the whole area, but for the Witton Gilbert area, the figures and nuisances associated with these three classes of closets are as follows,

Class.	Number.		Number of Nuisances.		Percentage of Total.
Water Closets	633	...	6	...	0.9
Ash Closets	3301	...	144	...	4.4
Privy Ashpits	1054	...	73	...	6.9

The percentage is calculated on the number of closets.

TOWNSHIP.	Number of Dwelling Houses and other occupied buildings.	CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.				REFUSE.	
		W.C.	E.C.	A.C.	Privs.	Ash- pits.	Ash- bins.
Barmston	103	13	...	95	10	...	...
Biddick, South ...	28	11	...	16	5	...	..
† Birtley	1760	370	...	1185	327	...	...
Burnmoor	265	28	...	99	156	...	...
Cocken	33	4	59*	25	6	...	...
Edmondsley	473	24	...	310	136	...	...
Harraton	675	93	...	535	102	...	...
† Lamesley	31	4	...	16	11	...	...
Lambton	1412	224	...	833	399	...	...
Lumley Great ...	473	29	5	310	96	...	...
Lumley Little	373	32	...	339	37	...	...
† Ouston	176	21	...	147	25	...	...
Pelton	1813	342	...	1203	235	...	...
Plawsworth	394	30	...	134	125	...	...
† Urpeth	763	73	...	410	304	...	...
Usworth	1549	281	...	1196	118	...	...
Waldridge	294	...	...	275	23	...	...
Washington	1614	419	...	1107	149	...	...
Witton Gilbert ...	1658	204	27	1044	436	...	...
Total	13887	2202	91	9279	2700	...	...

* Chiefly at Cocken Hall for temporary use at billets there. † The figures are those for 1913.

The number of water closets have been increased by 13 per cent. Earth closets are the same, if the Cocken Hall temporary ones are deducted. Ash-closets have increased by 0.18 per cent., and privy ashpits have decreased by 8 per cent., as compared with the numbers of last year.

UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS.

There still remain many unhealthy houses in your district, and unfortunately the number which would have been improved have been considerably curtailed by the war now raging.

There are required many houses to properly house the people who desire to reside in your district.

The following table gives the number of houses closed in each township during the year, and the number built and occupied during the same period.

Township.	No. of Houses Built and Occupied.	No. of Houses Closed.
Barmston .....	...	...
Biddick, South	1	...
Birtley	16	...
Burnmoor	2	...
Cocken .....	...	2
Edmondsley .....	...	4
Harraton	6	7
Lambton .....	...	...
Lamesley	25	...
Lumley Great	14	11
Lumley Little	8	1
Ouston	32	...
Pelton	18	5
Plawsworth .....	...	5
Urpeth	6	...
Usworth	61	41
Waldridge .....	...	...
Washington .....	...	8
Witton Gilbert	10	10
	199	94

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Owing to the marked incidence of Scarlet Fever your district did not possess sufficient hospital accommodation for the efficient isolation of infectious diseases.

The opening of a third pavilion, built on the cubicle system at the end of 1913, proved an immense service during the year,

in isolation of doubtful cases, and cases of contagious disease, such as scabies, which occurred amongst the troops billeted in the hospital area.

There was a considerable number of cases of Scarlet Fever (probable over 50) refused admission owing to want of accommodation.

The question of enlargement was considered by the Joint Hospital Board, but any decision as to final action has been postponed oftener than once, and at the end of the year all cases could be admitted.

It would be misleading if I dealt with the Rural cases alone in describing the work of the hospital, and I purpose following the lines of former years.

During the year 458 patients were admitted as compared with 234 patients last year, and with 139 patients during the previous year.

Of these, 74 were patients from the Urban District, 6 were cases amongst the hospital staff, one from outside the district of the Joint Board, 2 amongst troops billeted at Bowes' House, and 375 were from the Rural District.

Of the 375 admitted from the Rural District 309 were admitted as suffering from Scarlet Fever, 35 were admitted as suffering from Diphtheria, and 31 as suffering from Enteric Fever.

Of the 74 cases admitted from the Urban District, 55 were admitted as suffering from Scarlet Fever, 16 as suffering from Enteric Fever and 3 as suffering from Diphtheria.

From both districts several cases admitted as scarlet fever were evidently not scarlet fever, but an exanthem somewhat similar in appearance to scarlet fever, but much milder in character. In many of the doubtful cases of scarlet fever a severe attack of true scarlet fever supervened within a week of their admission to hospital.

All the Enteric cases were truly diagnosed save one case which was a plain case of Phthisis, and another case where the disease was Pneumonia. One case sent in as Diphtheria was Simple Tonsilitis, but all the other cases were true Diphtheria.

Of the 726 cases of Scarlet Fever notified in the Rural District during the year 309 cases, or 42.5 per cent. were admitted to hospital as compared with 38.0 per cent. last year, and with 41.8 per cent. during the previous year.

Of the Enteric Fever notified, 31 cases or 93.9 per cent. were admitted, as compared with 68.0 per cent. last year, and with 33.3 per cent. during the previous year.

Of the Diphtheria notified, 35 cases, or 39.3 per cent. were admitted to hospital as compared with 32.8 per cent. last year, and with 38.4 per cent. during the previous year.

Taking these three diseases as one unit, there were admitted 44.2 per cent. as compared with 40.1 per cent. last year, and with 41.0 per cent. during the previous year.

Seventeen patients died from Scarlet Fever, a case mortality of 4.67 per cent. as compared with a case mortality of 1.55 per cent. last year. The type of Scarlet Fever this year was much more severe than any type I have seen for thirty years.

Three died from Diphtheria, or a case mortality of 7.89 per cent. as compared with a case mortality of 10.0 per cent. last year, and 9 died from Enteric Fever, or a case mortality of 19.14 per cent. as compared with a case mortality of 11.76 per cent. last year.

One patient died from General Tuberculosis.

The case mortality of all admissions was 6.55 per cent. as compared with a case mortality of 3.83 per cent. last year.

If one compares the result of hospital treatment with home treatment in Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever and Diphtheria, the results are as follows:—

	Hospital Treat- ment, Deaths per cent.		Home Treat- ment, Deaths per cent.
Scarlet Fever	5.46	...	3.59
Enteric Fever	19.35	...	66.66
Diphtheria	8.57	...	22.72
All Diseases	6.93	...	5.70

Often the severe case is sent to the hospital and the milder cases kept at home. The type of Scarlet Fever was severe much more so than in previous years.

Four tracheotomies were performed, three of which proved fatal, and one recovered.

The results were not nearly so favourable as those of last year.

Three hundred and fifty seven patients recovered from Scarlet Fever, 29 recovered from Enteric Fever, 20 patients recovered from Diphtheria, and 16 from other diseases were discharged.

For Scarlet Fever patients the average number of days resident were 57.36, as compared with 57.21 days last year; for Enteric Fever patients the average number of days residence were 67.10, as compared with 71.30 days last year; and for Diphtheria patients the average number of days residence were 42.94 as compared with 49.27 days last year.

The average number of patients daily resident during the year was 67.85, as compared with 33.58 patients last year, and with 21.61 patients during the previous year.

	Average Number of Patients Daily Resident.
First Quarter	67.55
Second Quarter	68.34
Third Quarter	61.77
Fourth Quarter	74.37

The following table gives the number of cases admitted to Hospital since July, 1895, and other details:—

Year.	No. of Patients Admitted.	Average No. Daily Resident.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Admission.
1895	37	9.00	0	0.00
1896	121	15.30	3	2.48
1897	53	9.58	2	3.77
1898	104	14.17	3	2.88
1899	136	20.22	10	7.35
1900	116	18.35	4	3.44
1901	115	16.05	8	6.97
1902	104	13.65	8	7.69
1903	133	17.41	6	4.51
1904	56	5.25	2	3.57
1905	1	0.00	0	0.00
1906	53	6.76	2	3.92
1907	43	5.70	2	4.65
1908	124	18.23	11	8.87
1909	123	22.80	6	4.87
1910	70	12.35	5	7.01
1911	110	13.64	11	10.00
1912	139	21.61	8	5.75
1913	234	33.58	9	3.84
1914	458	67.85	30	6.55
	<hr/> 2330	<hr/> 17.14	<hr/> 130	<hr/> 5.58

The staff has been considerably increased during the year and now consists of a Matron, Charge Nurse and six Probationers. There are in addition, cook, two laundry maids, two ward maids and two maids in the administrative block, in addition, there are two men employed for the grounds, ambulance and machinery.

There have been added to the administrative block a Board room, waiting room, nurses' sitting room and six bedrooms. A room formerly used as a maids' bedroom is now to be used as the nurses' dining room, and their former dining room is to be utilised as a maids' sitting room, when the building is completed.

The pavilion on the cubicle system has been an exceptional boon to the good working of the institution.

In this pavilion there is some difficulty in getting good ventilation during muggy weather in November and December but during the rest of the year the ventilation is good.

During the year there have been treated in this pavilion 28 cases of Scarlet Fever, 41 cases of Diphtheria, 47 cases of Enteric Fever, 1 case of Scabies, 6 cases of Influenza, and 3 cases of other diseases, a total of 126 cases.

Many of the cases were children susceptible to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

There were two cases of cross infection, in both cases Diphtheria patients caught Scarlet Fever.

In one case the disease was produced by a child leaving her cubicle for another, and the other case was a child who was allowed to mix for a short time with scarlets in the playground.

In both cases the fault was not in the cubicle system, but in the want of supervision by the nurse in charge.

From this short experience of 14 months it may be suggested that with good supervision there is no fear of cross infection in a cubicle pavilion, even though the same nurse attends all the the patients therein, and though the wind blows as it must through as many cubicles as it pleaseth.

This system allows one to isolate doubtful cases until a diagnosis is made, and allows separation of patients, who may develop a second disease a day or two after admission.

Further there is greater cleanliness and much greater quietness than in a large ward.

The only objection one might make against it is that patients are lonely when convalescing. This can be got over by permitting patients suffering from the same disease to meet in a cubicle during a part of or the whole day.

All the roads in and approaching the hospital grounds have been made in cement concrete or tar macadam.

The laundry has been enlarged, and all the machinery is now electrically driven.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces have been regularly inspected during the year. As a rule these places were found in good sanitary condition. A few notices for minor faults were served and immediately complied with.

There are really no workshops of any size in your district, and, so far as I know, there are no outworkers.



TABLE I.

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.				
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	RATE.	of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	of Resi- dents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	62,739	2,361	2,361	37'63	908	14'45	.....	35	332	140'6	942	15'01
1910	63,869	2,341	2,341	36'65	914	14'32	.....	35	336	144'3	949	14'85
1911	63,882	2,189	2,189	34'26	994	15'56	12	62	413	188'6	1,044	16'34
1912	65,879	2,211	2,221	33'71	822	12'47	6	69	268	120'6	885	13'43
1913	66,648	2,164	2,170	32'54	880	13'20	12	77	296	136'4	945	14'17
1914	67,194	2,239	2,246	33'42	882	13'12	13	99	318	141'2	968	14'40

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water). } 32,429.

Total population at all ages, 63,882.

Number of Inhabited houses, 12,798

Average Number of persons per house, 4'99

} At Census of
1911.

TABLE II.
CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.
Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1914.

[illegible]

TABLE III.
CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									DEATHS IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES.—(TOWNSHIPS).																	PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.					
		At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Barnston.	Biddick, South.	Birtley.	Burnmoor.	Cocken.	Edmondley.	Hareton.	Lambton.	Lamesey.	Lunley, Great.	Lunley, Little.	Ouston.	Pelton.	Plawsworth.	Urpeth.	Usworth.	Waldridge.	Washington.	Witton Gilbert.	Dane Margaret's Home.	Earl's House Industrial School.	Sanatorium.	
All Causes.	Uncertified.....	969	316	71	47	53	43	87	161	191	6	.....	132	18	3	29	44	3	88	39	32	14	150	25	58	97	14	114	103				
	Certified.....	12	2	.....	.....	1	.....	4	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	2	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	2	.....			
Enteric Fever		8	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	3	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....			
Typhus .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small Pox .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles		3	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever		32	2	4	9	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	5	1	.....	1	4	7	.....	8	.....	.....	1	.....	1	1				
Whooping Cough		23	11	6	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	2	.....	.....	3	1	.....	6	1	.....	3	.....	2	2					
Diphtheria and Croup		13	3	1	5	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	1	1	1	2	.....	1	1				
Influenza		6	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	1	.....			
Erysipelas		3	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..		37	.....	3	3	2	9	16	4	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	2	3	1	.....	7	.....	3	5	1	2	2				
Tuberculous Meningitis		8	2	3	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1				
Other Tuberculosis Diseases		26	7	2	5	5	2	3	2	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	5	3	3	1				
Cancer, malignant disease		39	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	21	16	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	7	.....	1	1	9	2	3	3	.....	3	5				
Polo-Myelitis .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningitis		12	5	1	.....	2	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3				
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Glanders .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Anthrax .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lead Poisoning .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rheumatic Fever		4	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....			
Organic Heart Disease		88	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	9	33	41	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	12	6	2	.....	13	.....	5	11	1	9	7				
Bronchitis		54	17	5	1	.....	.....	2	6	23	1	.....	7	1	.....	2	5	1	10	3	2	.....	5	1	2	5	.....	8	1				
Pneumonia (all forms)		80	26	12	5	3	4	7	16	7	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	6	4	.....	5	.....	1	.....	12	2	3	8	2	12	14				
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..		10	2	1	4	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	1	1	.....	1	.....			
Diarrhoea and Enteritis		112	75	20	6	2	.....	3	1	5	1	.....	19	3	.....	5	.....	1	6	2	4	4	14	3	9	8	4	14	15				
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Alcoholism		1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cirrhosis of Liver		1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		27	.....	2	.....	3	1	8	7	6	.....	.....	7	1	.....	1	2	.....	2	.....	3	1	2	.....	.....	3	.....	3	2				
Puerperal Fever		9	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....			
Other accidents and diseases of Preg- nancy and Parturition		3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....			
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth		147	142	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	15	6	.....	5	2	.....	8	12	1	4	27	4	10	18	1	10	22				
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ..		49	2	1	3	7	6	8	15	7	.....	.....	8	1	.....	.....	6	.....	2	1	1	.....	4	1	6	6	.....	12	1				
Suicide		4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....			
Other Defined Diseases		134	8	3	.....	3	3	15	48	54	1	.....	16	5	.....	.....	6	1	8	5	6	2	13	7	12	13	2	21	16				
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		48	14	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	.....	.....	4	1	1	.....	2	.....	6	1	2	2	12	2	2	.....	.....	4	9				
All causes		981	318	71	47	54	43	91	163	194	6	.....	132	18	3	29	46	3	88	41	34	14	152	25	58	99	14	116	103				

TABLE IV.

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1914.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	Certified	80	17	13	18	128	63	47	38	316
	Uncertified	1				1			1	2
Small Pox										
Chicken Pox										
Measles									1	1
Scarlet Fever								1	1	2
Diphtheria and Croup							1	1	1	3
Whooping Cough						4	2	1	4	11
Diarrhea						15	25	18	10	68
Enteritis		1				1	2	2	2	7
Tuberculous Meningitis						1	1			2
Abdominal Tuberculous							2	3	1	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases								1		1
Congenital Malformations.....	5	2		1	8	1		1	1	11
Premature Birth	42	4	4	3	53	4	1			58
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	25	4	7	10	46	10	7	5	1	69
Atelectasis	5				5					5
Injury at Birth	2				2					2
Erysipelas				1	1					1
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous).....		1			1			3	1	5
Convulsions	1	3	1	1	6	1	3	1	2	13
Gastritis		1			1	2		1		4
Laryngitis							2			2
Bronchitis				1	1	1	7	3	5	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	1		1	1	3		9	6	8	26
Suffocation, overlying						1			1	2
Other Causes		1			1		1			2
	81	17	13	18	129	40	63	47	39	318

Nett Births in the year { legitimate ... 2,173.
 { illegitimate ... 73.

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 293.
 { illegitimate infants ... 25.

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

[illegible]

TABLE VI.
SCARLET FEVER DURING 1914.

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

LOCALITIES.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Barnston										1			1
Biddick, South													
Birtley		6	14	8	11	8	4	9	12	6	7	2	87
Burnmoor	3	3			2			3	21	20	5	2	59
Cocken													
Edmondsley	3	1	12	1	7		1					2	27
Harraton		2		13	12	11	6	6	5	1	1	1	58
Lambton			2					1	2	1			6
Lamesley		4	2	2			2	4	2	3	4	2	25
Lumley, Great	3	4	9	6	3	8	1	1	2		4	1	42
Lumley, Little	4	3	8	8	5	1	3	9	13	37	7	12	110
Ouston	2	5	4	1	4		1	1		1			19
Pelton	17	24	15	10	10	4	5	3	1	3	2	6	100
Plawsworth													
Urpeth	4	3	7	1					1		1	1	18
Usworth	9	9	6	6		1	1		4	5	2	2	45
Waldridge		5	18	5	11	10	1	3				7	60
Washington	5	4	5	2	6	3	2	2	3	4			36
Witton Gilbert			2	2	2	1	1	4	3	9	7	2	33
Dame Margaret's Home													
Earl's House													
Industrial School													
Totals	50	73	104	65	73	47	28	46	69	91	40	40	726

TABLE VII.
ENTERIC FEVER DURING 1914.

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

LOCALITIES.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Barnston													
Biddick, South													
Birtley						1				3		1	5
Burnmoor										1			1
Cocken													
Edmondsley													
Harraton									1	1	1		3
Lambton									1				1
Lamesley				1				3	2				6
Lumley, Great									4	1	1	1	7
Lumley, Little										1			1
Ouston													
Pelton				1					1				2
Plawsworth							1						1
Urpeth													
Usworth									1				1
Waldridge													
Washington								3	1		1		5
Witton Gilbert													
Dame Margaret's Home													
Earl's House Industrial School													
Totals				2		1	1	6	11	7	3	2	33

TABLE VIII.
DIPHTHERIA DURING 1914.

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

LOCALITIES.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Barnston	1												1
Biddick, South													
Birtley		1	1	1	2	2	1		1		2	2	13
Burnmoor					2								2
Cocken													
Edmondsley	1										1	1	3
Harraton			1							1			2
Lambton													
Lamesley			4		1			1			1	1	8
Lumley, Great				1						1			2
Lumley, Little													
Ouston													
Pelton	3	1		1		1					1	1	8
Plawsworth	1			1							1	2	5
Urpeth							1				1	1	3
Usworth	1	4		1	1	1		1		1	3		13
Waldridge													
Washington	2	1	1		2		1	1	1				9
Witton Gilbert		1	1			1	2	5	5	2	2	1	20
Dame Margaret's Home													
Earl's House													
Industrial School													
Totals	9	8	8	5	8	5	5	8	7	5	12	9	89

TABLE IX.
PUERPERAL FEVER DURING 1914.
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

LOCALITIES.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec.	TOTAL.
Barnston							1						1
Biddick, South													
Birtley						1							1
Burnmoor													
Cocken													
Edmondsley													
Harraton													
Lambton													
Lamesley													
Lumley, Great													
Lumley, Little													
Ouston													
Pelton										1			1
Plawsworth						2							2
Urpeth													
Usworth													
Waldridge													
Washington													
Witton Gilbert													
Dame Margaret's Home													
Earl's House Industrial School													
Totals						3	1			1			5

TABLE X.
ERYSIPELAS DURING 1914.

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

LOCALITIES.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Barnston													
Biddick, South													
Birtley	1	1	2	1				1		1	2	5	14
Burnmoor								1					1
Cocken													
Edmondsley									1				1
Harraton			1		2				1		1	1	6
Lambton													
Lamesley	1		1	1		2	1		1	1	1	1	10
Lumley, Great				1	1								2
Lumley, Little				1					2	1			4
Ouston								1		1			2
Pelton	1	1	2				1	1		3	1	2	12
Plawsworth						1							1
Urpeth		1		1						2			4
Usworth	1	1	1	2	2				2	1	2	3	15
Waldridge						1							1
Washington	3				1		2	1			1	1	9
Witton Gilbert										1			1
Dame Margaret's Home													
Earl's House Industrial School													
Totals	7	4	7	7	6	4	4	5	7	11	8	13	83

TABLE XI.

Birth-Rate, General Death Rate, Zymotic Death Rate, Diarrhoeal Death Rate, and Infantile Death Rate in each Township during 1914.

TOWNSHIP.	Birth Rate per 1000.	General Death Rate per 1000.	Total Zymotic Death Rate per 1000.	Diarrhoeal Death Rate per 1000.	Infantile Death Rate per 1000 born.
Barnston	28·45	12·19	2·03	2·03	285·7
Biddick, South	8·85	.....	.....	.....	.....
Birtley	30·68	15·11	3·09	2·17	156·7
Burnmoor	26·90	13·45	2·24	2·24	277·7
Cocken	33·51	16·76	5·58	.....	333·3
Edmondsley	34·51	12·66	5·67	2·18	164·5
Harraton	29·12	13·67	0·59	.....	61·2
Lambton	21·73	21·73	7·24	7·24	333·3
Lamesley	26·77	12·87	2·19	0·87	109·2
Lumley, Great	34·11	18·12	3·98	2·65	207·8
Lumley, Little	30·69	16·30	5·75	1·92	78·1
Ouston	24·95	13·97	3·99	3·99	320·0
Pelton	41·28	18·29	3·61	1·68	174·9
Plawsworth	38·21	18·02	3·60	2·16	113·2
Urpeth	32·18	16·23	2·79	2·51	139·1
Usworth	35·40	12·47	1·76	1·00	117·4
Waldridge	31·50	10·05	3·00	3·00	119·0
Washington	33·07	14·21	2·57	1·72	107·4
Witton Gilbert	36·65	13·43	2·47	1·95	149·4

TABLE XII.
POPULATION OF THE SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS
IN THE DISTRICT.

ESTIMATED TO THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR 1914.

TOWNSHIPS.	1911.			1913. Popula- tion.	1914.			
	Number of In- habited Houses.	Popula- tion.	Average per House.		Number of In- habited Houses	Popula- tion.	Increase.	Decrease.
							As compared with 1913.	
Barnston	100	492	4·92	492	100	492	.....	.....
Biddick, South	13	57	4·38	100	26	113	13	.....
Birtley	1667	8409	5·04	8583	1733	8734	151	.....
Burnmoor	291	1320	5·25	1328	251	1338	10	.....
Cocken	35	190	5·42	190	33	179	.....	11
Edmondsley	456	2223	4·87	2274	470	2289	15	.....
Harraton	657	3400	5·17	3334	651	3365	31	.....
Lambton	29	130	4·48	134	31	138	4	.....
Lamesley	1297	6370	4·91	6721	1392	6834	113	.....
Lumley, Great	439	2177	4·95	2237	456	2257	20	.....
Lumley, Little	216	1239	5·73	2051	364	2085	34	.....
Ouston	154	942	6·11	1008	164	1002	.....	6
Pelton	1722	8118	4·71	8247	1764	8308	61	.....
Plawsworth	282	1333	4·72	1373	294	1387	14	.....
Urpeth	702	3320	4·72	3507	757	3573	66	.....
Usworth	1501	7986	5·32	8038	1492	7937	.....	101
Waldridge	268	1256	4·68	1338	285	1333	.....	5
Washington	1504	7821	5·20	8148	1570	8163	15	.....
Witton Gilbert	1505	7099	4·71	7545	1628	7667	122	.....
Totals	12798	63882		66648	13464	67194	669	123

TABLE XIII. CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Enteric Fever during 1914.

No.	Date of Notification.	Name.	Age.	Sex.	Locality.	Probable Cause.	Probable connection between one case and any other.	Probable connection between the cause of one case and any other.	Water Supply Source.	Drainage	Method of Excrement Disposal.	Manner in which Scavenging is performed.	Removal to Hospital.	Remarks.	Termination.	No
1	27th April	J. J. S.	32	M.	Grange Villa	Unascertainable	None	None	Weardale & Consett	Sewer	Ash-closet	Fair	Yes...		Fatal	1
2	30th "	M. S.	25	M.	Low Fell	"	"	"	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	"	"	"	"	"	2
3	24th May	H. V.	53	M.	Birtley	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	No	"	"	3
4	22nd July	A. H.	27	M.	Plawsworth	"	"	"	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	Yes...	"	Recovery	4
5	7th Aug.	S. W.	57	F.	Washington Station	"	"	"	Sunderland & So. Shields	"	Water-closet	"	"	"	Fatal	5
6	13th "	A. S.	30	F.	Team Colliery	"	"	"	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	Privy Ashpit	"	No	"	"	6
7	17th "	R. J.	18	M.	Washington	"	"	"	Sunderland & So. Shields	"	Ash-closet	"	Yes...	"	Recovery	7
8	20th "	G. G.	16	M.	Team Colliery	"	"	"	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	Privy Ashpit	"	"	"	"	8
9	23rd "	E. B.	2	F.	Washington Station	"	"	"	Sunderland & So. Shields	"	Ash-closet	"	No	"	"	9
10	4th Sept.	S. D.	27	F.	Lumley	"	"	"	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	Yes...	"	"	10
11	" "	J. D. F.	17	M.	Fatfield	"	"	"	Herrington	"	"	"	"	"	"	11
12	5th "	A. E. B.	41	F.	Lumley	"	"	No. 10, 13, 17, 22.	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	"	"	12
13	" "	M. B.	37	F.	"	"	"	10, 12, 17, 22.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	13
14	" "	J. T.	57	M.	Washington Station	Unascertainable	"	None	Sunderland & So. Shields	"	"	"	"	"	Fatal	14
15	8th "	F. H.	17	M.	Pelton Fell	"	"	"	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	"	Recovery	15
16	11th "	F. H.	19	F.	Eighton Banks	"	"	"	Newcastle & So. Shields	"	"	"	"	"	"	16
17	17th "	M. B.	25	F.	Lumley	"	"	No. 10, 12, 13, 22.	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	"	"	17
18	21st "	J. T.	34	F.	Usworth Colliery	Unascertainable	"	None	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	"	"	"	"	"	18
19	26th "	J. B.	19	M.	Andrews House	"	"	"	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	"	"	19
20	" "	H. A.	50	M.	Primrose Hill	"	"	"	Herrington	"	"	"	"	"	"	20
21	1st Oct.	F. M. S.	10	F.	Fatfield	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	21
22	3rd "	J. J. O'H.	47	M.	Lumley	"	"	No. 10, 12, 13, 17.	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	"	"	22
23	" "	R. F.	4	M.	New Washington	Unascertainable	"	None	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	"	"	No	Not Enteric, Widal Twice Negative	"	23
24	" "	M. A.	7	F.	Burnmoor	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Yes...	"	"	24
25	5th "	M. R.	46	F.	Birtley	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	25
26	7th "	S. B.	51	F.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	26
27	8th "	S. R.	1	M.	"	"	No. 25	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	27
28	14th "	W. J. M.	44	M.	New Lumley	Unascertainable	None	None	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	No	Very Doubtful Case	"	28
29	28th "	W. P.	14	M.	Birtley	"	"	"	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	"	"	Yes...	Not Enteric, Widal Negative	"	29
30	2nd Nov.	H. M.	23	F.	Washington Station	"	"	"	Sunderland & So. Shields	"	"	"	"	"	Fatal	30
31	6th "	D. L. W.	3	M.	Lumley	"	"	"	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	"	Recovery	31
32	7th "	T. S.	14	M.	Fatfield	"	No. 21	"	Herrington	"	"	"	"	"	"	32
33	19th "	E. J.	47	M.	Waterloo	Unascertainable	None	None	Newcastle & Gateshead...	"	"	"	"	"	Case of Pneumonia	33
34	1st Dec.	S. V.	23	M.	North Side, Birtley	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fatal	34
35	" "	B. M.	17	F.	Lumley	"	"	"	Weardale & Consett	"	"	"	"	Case of Septicæmia, Widal Negative	"	35
36	22nd "	J. J.	4	F.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Recovery	36

APPENDIX A.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS under the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, made during 1914, with the results accruing from such and previous Inspections.

TOWNSHIP.	Number of dwelling houses, which being unfit, for human habitation, have been voluntarily, closed by the owners.	Number of dwelling houses inspected for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909.	The number of dwelling houses which, on inspection, were considered in a state so dangerous, or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	The number of Closing Orders made.	The number of houses closed by such Orders.	The number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.	The number of dwelling houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation, and the general character of the defects found to exist.
Burnmoor .....	....	75	60	60	....	....	....	....
Cocken	2	2	2	....	....	....	....	....
Edmondsley	4	85	9	3	3	....	....	....
Harraton.....	7	....	....	....	....	....	4	....
Lumley, Great	11	37	21	6	6	....	1	....
Lumley, Little	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pelton .....	....	....	....	....	....	7	4	5
Plawsworth.....	5	46	30	....	....	....	17	....
Usworth	4	32	19	19	....	37	5	....
Washington	7	7	5	5	2	....	15	....
Witton Gilbert	6	24	24	4	2	....	7	4
TOTAL	47	308	170	97	13	44	53	9

APPENDIX B.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS, &c.,
made by MR. ROBT. J. SWADDLE, Sanitary Inspector of the
Witton Gilbert Sub-Division during the year 1914.

Townships—Cocken, Edmondsley, Lumley Great, Pelton,
Plawsworth, Waldrige and Witton Gilbert.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Coal Mine Shafts—Disused	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Common Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Domestic Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Fish and Fruit Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Houses re Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ re Nuisances or Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	1901
„ re Housing Record	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1046
Premises re Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
„ re Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	10214
Slaughter-houses and Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Works in progress:—Drains, Water-closets, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1684
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15778

APPENDIX C.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH in the WITTON GILBERT SUB-DIVISION during 1914.

Townships—Cocken, Edmondsley, Lumley Great, Pelton,
Plawsworth, Waldrige and Witton Gilbert.

INSPECTOR SWADDLE.

NUISANCES.				Number of Informal Notices served.	Number of Statutory Notices served.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Animals or fowls improperly kept ...	...	...	...	20	2	20
Ash-closets, defective ...	...	...	...	147	1	133
Ashpits and privies, defective ...	...	...	...	139	4	150
Cesspools, overflowing ...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Cowsheds, foul conditions or defective ...	...	...	...	2	...	3
Dairies, defective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dangerous buildings ...	...	...	...	7	...	5
Drainage, To provide drainage ...	...	...	...	8	...	11
„ „ re-construct „ ...	...	...	...	24	...	19
„ „ repair or clear ...	...	...	...	143	...	135
Dwelling-houses, Foul conditions ...	...	...	...	15	...	14
„ Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	29	...	19
„ Structural defects ...	...	...	...	179	2	114
„ Water supply ...	...	...	...	10	...	6
„ Yard paving ...	...	...	...	98	5	66
Factories or Workshops ...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Fried fish-shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	36	4	38
Refuse or manure ...	...	...	...	55	1	56
Schools, Structural defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scullery waste-pipes, defective ...	...	...	...	13	2	10
Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Smoke (from outbuildings) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water-closets, defective ...	...	...	...	9	...	8
Yard space curtailed by erection of wood sheds ...	...	...	...	1	...	5
Totals ...	...	...	...	951	21	820

APPENDIX B.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS, &c.,
made by MR. T. S. WADGE, Sanitary Inspector of the
Washington Sub-Division during the year 1914.

Townships—Barmston, Biddick South, Burnmoor, Lambton,
Lumley Little, Harraton, Usworth and Washington.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Common Lodging-houses			...	...	...	...	...
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Dairies and Milkshops	...		...	...	...	...	15
Domestic Workshops	...		...	...	...	...	5
Factories and Workshops			...	...	...	...	31
Fish and Fruit Shops	...		...	...	...	...	7
Houses re Infectious Diseases	...		...	...	...	...	53
„ re Nuisances or Defects			...	...	...	...	1658
„ re Housing Record	...		...	...	...	...	114
Ice Cream Shops	...		...	...	...	...	5
New Buildings	...		...	...	...	...	682
Premises re Complaints			...	...	...	...	122
„ re Scavenging			...	...	...	...	10207
Slaughter-houses and Butchers' Shops	...			...	...	...	84
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Works in progress:—Drains, Water-closets, &c.	...					...	661
Total	...		...	...	...	...	13548

APPENDIX C.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH in the WASHINGTON SUB-DIVISION during 1914.

Townships—Barmston, Biddick South, Burnmoor, Lambton,
Lumley Little, Harraton, Usworth, and Washington.

INSPECTOR WADGE.

NUISANCES.				Number of Informal Notices served.	Number of Statutory Notices served.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Animals or fowls improperly kept	...	...	...	9	...	9
Ash-closets, defective	...	...	...	225	...	192
Ashpits and privies, defective	...	...	...	94	23	102
Cesspools, overflowing	...	...	...	2	...	2
Cowsheds, foul conditions or defective	...	...	...	2	...	2
Dairies, defective	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dangerous buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drainage, To provide	...	...	}	...	...	4
„ „ re-construct	...	...		124	4	39
„ „ repair or clear	...	...		...	4	68
Dwelling-houses, Foul conditions	...	...	...	5	1	4
„ Overcrowding	...	...	...	18	1	11
„ Structural defects	...	...	...	129	...	149
„ Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Yard paving	...	...	...	25	...	32
Factories or Workshops	...	...	...	2	...	2
Fried fish-shops	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	1	...	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	8	...	8
Refuse or manure	...	...	...	12	...	8
Schools, Structural defects	...	...	...	2	...	...
Scullery waste-pipes defective	...	...	...	10	...	9
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	3	...	3
Smoke (from outbuildings)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water-closets, defective	...	...	...	8	...	6
Yard space curtailed by erection of wood sheds	...	...	...	9	...	9
Totals	...	...	...	688	33	660

